

Bangalore Mirror

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BBMP forest wing to promote planting of native tree species to tackle impact of climate change

BEST-LAID PLANTS

5 hi-tech nurseries to be set up

| Garima Prasher
garima.prasher@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has decided to be vocal for local species. This is after the forest department of the civic agency decided to promote the planting of native tree species across the city to fight negative impacts of climate change.

To achieve this, BBMP is coming up with five hi-tech nurseries in different parts of the city that will house thousands of seedlings and saplings of native species, some with medicinal properties.

"All the current nurseries are traditional; we have been focusing on avenue plantation, with added importance given to the tree species being planted. However, we are now planning to bring back native trees in Bengaluru's parks and open patches of land. To achieve this, we are setting up five hi-tech nurseries for seed treatment to increase germination

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4 >>



BRANDON GREEN/UNSPLASH

50,000 seedlings/saplings of native species will be available in nurseries

—BLG Swamy, deputy conservator of forests, BBMP

Drone that!

Survey to reclaim lake land



PAGE 4



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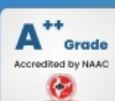
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3 THINGS TO DO

01 **Creative goodies**

The Bengaluru Arts and Crafts Festival is all set for shopping during the Indian festival of Sankranti. This festival is unique as it brings various products under one roof. You can get your hands on colour powders, jewellery, hosiery, decorative items, and more. **Where:** White House Convention Centre, HSR Layout; **When:** until January 14

02 **Helpful gesture**

Rotary Bangalore Peenya and Bhagwan Mahaveer Viklang Sahayatha Samiti (BMVSS), Jaipur, are all set to organise the 26th edition of the free Mega Jaipur Foot Fitment Camp. The camp is providing free fitment of 650-limbs, 600-calipers, 800-crutches, 50-wheelchairs, and an 80-LN4 forehead. The beneficiaries should bring their Aadhaar copy mandatorily to the camp. **Where:** Ganesh Bagh, Sri SSBS Jain Sangh Trust, No. 9, Bhagavan Mahaveer Road (Infantry Road), Shivajinagar; **When:** until January 9

03 **Urban trend**

The Environment Support Group (ESG) is organising a one-day workshop on urban infrastructure in a changing climate at its office.

Join in to learn about the legal provisions that govern the mega-infrastructure in cities and explore the interplay between climate change and urban-infrastructure projects through a screening of 'Our Metropolis', a movie by Gautam Sonti and Usha Rao. Also, get the chance to discuss Namma Metro. **Register:** <https://forms.gle/3Hx1ActxHJ4KHNR76>
Where: ESG, 1572, Banashankari II Stage
When: January 20, 2024



Gut feelings ignored

Report reveals while focus was on dengue and covid, it was acute diarrheal diseases that was major health concern in state; experts stress on need to focus on sanitation issues

| Sridhar Vivan
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TWEETS @sridharvMirror

Since last year, there has been a lot of talk about dengue and covid as people continue to be victims of vector-borne and infectious diseases. However, surprisingly, the major health concern in Karnataka turned out to be acute diarrheal diseases (ADD), surpassing the impact of both dengue and covid combined. Despite the predominant focus on covid since 2020, other diseases seemed to have faded into the background, a misconception dispelled by the recent revelations in the Health Department's annual report covering the period from January 1 to November 17, 2023.

According to the comprehensive health bulletin released by the Health Department, Karnataka witnessed a substantial number of severe acute respiratory infections (SARI), totaling 9,476 cases. Notably, in the second week of November alone, there were 156 cases reported. Additionally, influenza cases numbered 3,580 throughout the year. Usually, these infections are seen spiking during the temperature dip in the state.

However, the most alarming revelation was the prevalence of acute diarrheal diseases, with a staggering 1,37,662 reported cases. It is crucial to recognise that diarrheal diseases, accord-



The most alarming revelation was the prevalence of acute diarrheal diseases, with a staggering 1,37,662 reported cases

ing to the World Health Organisation, stand as a leading cause of child mortality and morbidity globally, often stemming from contaminated food and water sources. The global scenario is further exacerbated by the fact that 780 million individuals lack access to improved drinking water and 2.5 billion lack improved sanitation. A health expert said, "This report is a wake-up call for civic agencies like BBMP, where they take sanitation issues lightly. Even though covid receives more attention in prevention, other diseases should not be neglected."

Increase in dog bite cases

Delving into specific cases, dog bites took a concerning turn this year, with a record 2,21,251 reported cases in Karnataka. Astonishingly, this translates to an average of 691 dog bite cases reported every day across different parts of the state. Despite the high number of cases, only four of them were attributed to rabies. Moreover, the year saw 6,367 reported cases of dog bites and 19 deaths due to snake bites in Karnataka, indicating a daily average of approximately 20 snake bite cases reported across

the state, said the annual report.

Other diseases

As far as zoonotic diseases were concerned, 10,590 individuals underwent testing for leptospirosis, with 1,484 testing positive. Leptospirosis, a bacterial disease affecting both humans and animals, can manifest a wide range of symptoms, some of which may be mistaken for other diseases. If left untreated, leptospirosis can lead to severe complications such as kidney damage, meningitis, liver failure, respiratory distress, and, in some cases, death. Specifically affecting the Malnad region, the Kyasanur forest disease garnered attention with 6,503 individuals tested, of which 19 were confirmed cases.

Vector-borne diseases emerged as a significant public health concern, with 1,19,341 people tested for dengue, resulting in 15,505 positive cases, predominantly in Bengaluru. Additionally, 32,308 were tested for Chikungunya, with 1,512 positive cases.

Malaria saw a substantial testing pool of 1,18,43,006 individuals, of which 249 tested positive. Japanese encephalitis, although less prevalent, still saw 302 individuals tested, with 28 confirmed cases. Turning to vaccine-preventable diseases, 255 individuals tested positive for diphtheria and 3,902 tested positive for measles, underlining the importance of vaccination in preventing the spread of these diseases, the report added.

Whitefield RWA opts out of Jana Samparka Sabha

The Namma Whitefield RWA Federation has opted out of attending the Jana Samparka Sabha programme held for residents of Mahadevapura and KR Puram on Wednesday by Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar along with officials from other prominent civic agencies. They have cited that their prior suggestions at various public consultations have not been taken into consideration, leading them to question if the outreaches are genuine, among many other issues.

The federation noted that while mechanisms for citizens' grievance redressal are already in place, they are not functional. "The BBMP Sahaaya grievance redressal platform is merely a showpiece, and complaints logged in by citizens are not addressed, complaints are closed without action being taken, there is no accountability for officials, and there is no option for escalation by citizens," the federation said, adding that very few BBMP Ward Committees hold regular mandatory fortnightly meetings.



"The necessity for a Jana Samparka Sabha to understand people's problems is an indication that the systemic redress-

The BBMP Sahaaya grievance redressal platform is merely a showpiece, and complaints logged in by citizens are not addressed—RWA federation

sal system or mechanism is not functioning. We require a system that works for citizens every single day, not on a particular Jana Samparka Day," it said.

Further, the federation noted that the suggestions provided in earlier consultations have been ignored. "We participated actively in the Brand Bengaluru Public Consultation organised by the Deputy CM earlier and offered suggestions, but we haven't seen any positive outcome. We also participated in public consultations for BBMP ward delimitation and were sorely disappointed that none of our valid inputs were considered. These experiences have left us disappointed and disillusioned. We regretfully wonder if these outreaches are genuine or merely publicity stunts," the federation noted.

The federation also said that they did not take part in the event as they were of the opinion that the system of the city government prevailing is flawed. It pointed out that the 74th Amendment, passed in 1992, has laid out that the city is mandated to have a planning authority and a devolved, decentralised, unified, and elected city government. "Instead of making these corrections, the state government has merely appointed a Bengaluru City Development Minister, which is not a substitute for the governance framework and systemic cure that the city requires. We require systemic change, not tokenism," it mentioned. — BMB

43 murders in city just in fit of anger

For the first time, 207 murders reported in a calendar year

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TWEETS @sridharVMIRROR

City police stress that a significant number of murders in the city occur due to sudden and severe provocations. Shockingly, Bengaluru reported 200 murders in a calendar year, a first in recent times.

During the last three-year period (2021 to 2023), Bengaluru witnessed a noticeable escalation in reported murders. In 2023, there were 207 murders, an increase from the 173 reported in 2022, which means a rise of 31%.

In 2021, 153 murders were reported. These figures underscore a concerning trend, highlighting the need for effective strategies in law enforcement and community safety. The police have categorised the motives of murders, including sudden and grave provocation (49 murders in 2023), illicit relationships (32), domestic problems (31), personal enmity (31), and disputes over loans (17), etc.

The numbers show that murders due to sudden and grave provocation have been increasing over the years. Over 2021 to 2023, Bengaluru saw a concerning rise in such murders. In 2021, 24 murders were reported due to sudden provocation. This escalated to 40 in 2022. The trend persisted, with 49 murders attributed to sudden provocation in 2023.

A senior police official said, "Many of these incidents could have been averted if the conflicting parties had been pacified. So, the next time anger surfaces, the simple act of counting from one to 10 can not



only calm you down but also contribute to preventing potentially fatal outcomes."

Surge in robberies

There has been a notable surge in robbery cases over the past year. In 2023, Bengaluru witnessed a total of 673 robberies, with only 437 of them being successfully detected. This marked a substantial increase of 41% compared to the figures from 2022. Law enforcement authorities say a majority of these (57%) are mobile phone snatching. Chain snatching incidents witnessed a slight uptick.

In 2022, there were 151 reported cases of chain snatching, which marginally rose to 153 in 2023. However, the detection rate for these cases dipped from 139 in 2022 to 114 in 2023. Meanwhile, kidnapping cases also registered an increase. In 2022, as many as 269 boys and 582 girls were kidnapped, whereas in 2023, these figures rose to 342 boys and 780 girls.

Rise in crimes against women

Crimes against women exhibited a disturbing rise as well. In 2022, the city recorded 2,630 crimes against women, and this number surged to 3,260 in 2023. Among the crimes against women, a significant portion

fell under the Dowry Prohibition Act (1,007 cases), with molestation cases accounting for 1,004 incidents.

Escalation in rape

The data from the City police indicates an increase in rape cases in 2023 compared to previous years. In 2021, Bengaluru reported 116 rape cases, which escalated to 152 in 2022 and further rose to 176 in 2023. Notably, a significant majority of the rape cases in 2023 (115) involved perpetrators who assaulted their victims under the pretext of promising love or marriage. Additionally, 44 cases were perpetrated by neighbors or known individuals, 14 by relatives, and in three cases, the accused remained unidentified.

Soaring suicide

Furthermore, Bengaluru documented 2,358 cases of suicides, with 1,700 victims being male and rest female. Sandesh Rao, an activist, said, "The crime data of 2023 highlights the urgency for proactive law enforcement measures, community engagement, and preventative strategies to curb the rising crime rates in Bengaluru."

A comprehensive approach involving collaboration between authorities and the community is imperative to ensure the safety and well-being of the citizens."

Over ₹10,300 cr siphoned off by cyber criminals since 2021

Over Rs 10,300 crore were siphoned off from the country by cybercriminals since April 1, 2021, of which agencies managed to successfully block around Rs 1,127 crore in the country, Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) said Wednesday.

Over 4.52 lakh cyber crime cases were reported on the National Cybercrime Reporting Portal (NCRP) in 2021, which rose by 113.7 per cent in 2022, with 9.66 lakh cases being reported on the portal, CEO of I4C Rajesh Kumar told reporters in an interaction here.

I4C is a body established by the Ministry of Home Affairs to provide a

framework and eco-system for law enforcement agencies for dealing with Cybercrime in a coordinated and comprehensive manner.

Kumar said over 15.56 lakh cases were reported on NCRP in 2023, translating into 129 cyber crime cases reported per lakh population, which shows a "deceleration" of growth rate to 60.9 per cent as compared to 2022.

"Rs 10,319 crore has been reportedly lost in India from April 1, 2021 to December 31, 2023... We have managed to block Rs 1127 crore, of which 9-10 per cent has been restored in the accounts of the victims," Kumar said.

Giving details of cyber criminals,

officials said around 50 per cent of cyber attacks are being committed by "gangs" operating from Cambodia, Vietnam, China and other countries.

Citing difficulties in restoring amounts to the accounts of victims, Kumar said the government is framing new Standard Operating Procedures which are likely to come out soon to make it easier for victims to claim their money.

Right now, a victim has to get a court order to get their money back with states like Gujarat and Karnataka leading the way where people are approaching Lok Adalats and magistrates to get their money. PTI

IN BRIEF

Shoe thieves nabbed

The police have apprehended three men in connection with the theft of 1,558 branded shoes from the company's warehouse. One of the accused was identified as Saleh Ahmed, who had been employed as a goods vehicle driver at the NIKE warehouse in Shettihalli, Anekal. He is accused of stealing a container filled with the branded footwear.

Ahmed allegedly diverted the goods, intended for transfer to the warehouse of a shopping portal, to a

location in Razack Palya, before abandoning the vehicle near Chikkajala. The police used a GPS tracker in the vehicle to trace and recover the stolen shoes, leading to the arrest of Shuban Pasha, Mansar Ali, and Shahidul Rehman, who hail from Assam. Investigations are ongoing to locate four other people involved in the crime.

The accused had prior experience working in reputable company warehouses. BMB

K-RIDE wants 294 coaches for suburban rail

The Karnataka Rail Infrastructure Development Company (K-RIDE) has recently invited request for proposal price bids from prequalified bidders to deploy 294 coaches (rolling stock) for the Bengaluru Suburban Rail Project (BSRP) spanning 149.3 km.

The K-RIDE hopes to run 80 trains of three coaches each and four trains of six coaches across the four lines coming up - Sampige (KSR Bengaluru - Devanahalli), Mallige (Baiyyappanahalli - Chikkabanavara), Parijaata

(Kengeri - Whitefield), and Kanaka (Heelalige - Rajankunte). In a Public Private Partnership (PPP) model, the company will be appointing a 'Lessor' to lease, maintain as well as operate these trains.

In May last year - BEML, BHEL and CAF - three firms had put forward their interest in the project. K-RIDE will be selecting the 'Lessor' in the RFP (second stage) based on the charges per train-hour and the charges for maintenance per train-hour. BMB

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Time to click: Bird's-eye view of Hennagara Lake

Group of locals decide to conduct aerial survey of Hennagara Lake to pinpoint any encroachment; despite complaints, lake wasn't resurveyed by authorities concerned

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

In their quest to give a new lease of life to Hennagara Lake in South Bengaluru, a group of citizens from the area have decided to conduct an aerial survey of the water body to check for illegal constructions and encroachments around its peripheries. Residents have taken up this initiative after months of inaction by authorities concerned, despite multiple complaints raised by them in the past.

"We informed the local panchayat about illegal soil dumping into Hennagara Lake a couple of months ago. While this was stopped by panchayat officials, the lake is yet to be resurveyed by the revenue department. Thus, we have decided to carry out a drone-based survey of the water body to pinpoint any encroachment. We will also survey Jigani and Haragadde lakes, two water bodies that form inlets to Hennagara," said Tushar Chandra, a resident of the area and founder of VrikshaMitra Foundation, an NGO run by a group of residents.

The aerial photos will cover the boundaries of the lakes and help residents determine the current lake area. The images will then be overlaid with the official maps of the lake available with the Revenue Department to calculate the total



The aerial photos will cover the boundaries of the lakes and help residents determine the current lake area

encroachment so far. Apart from highlighting encroachments, the initiative is also expected to spot polluted water entering through any of the inlets. "Photographs of sudden inflows of extremely polluted water and the effects of that, like fish kills, will also be recorded. It will also provide a location for people to share pictures of sudden starts of encroachments, such as illegal housing projects," said another resident.

According to Chandra, the idea is also to conduct such surveys at other city lakes that require monitoring.

"To begin with, while we will be able to survey three lakes every three to four months, the idea is to create

Photographs of sudden inflows of extremely polluted water and the effects of that will also be recorded —a resident of the area

a public database of all the lakes in the city. This will allow people to see changes in lake boundaries over time and with much higher temporal resolution. We are also looking at tech-based companies to help us with the project," added Chandra.

Residents say the lake also houses many bird species, including migratory birds, and the drone survey will

also help in maintaining a healthy ecosystem.

"A large part of the water body is covered with weeds that grow when organic matter content, which is untreated sewage, is high. The weeds also flow in from other lakes via the inlets. This overgrowth is creating an unfavourable environment for the fish. Without fish, there will not be many birds, and the ecosystem might collapse. Many residents have already noticed a drop in the bird population. The drone survey will be helpful as it will help us understand the water surface area covered by weeds," said Prithvi Krishnamurthy, a resident and nature photographer.

Barking up the right tree

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

percentage of the native species. The nurseries will also carry out growth regulation of these seedlings," said BLG Swamy, deputy conservator of forests, BBMP. The idea is to take up plantation

of trees that support local ecology and also have medicinal values. These saplings will be planted in parks across the city.

"It is established that chewing neem leaves at least once a week improves oral health by 90%. Similarly, barks of jamun

trees, or arjuna trees have medicinal value and can be used directly. Similar health benefits are cited often in the case of many other native tree species. However, these trees are not as abundant in the city. The hi-tech nurseries will ensure availability of these seedlings and saplings not just to be planted in parks and open spaces in the city, but also to the citizens free of cost," added Swamy. The saplings will be available for housing societies and individuals.

However, for those picking up more than 50 saplings, a site inspection will be conducted by BBMP officials and the process will be monitored even after plantation. For now, two such nurseries are being established in Indiranagar and Bommanahalli. For the rest three, BBMP has begun a space hunt.

"The nurseries will have the latest technologies to treat the seeds before they are planted to ensure better germination and faster growth. One is being established in Indiranagar in an eight-acre space. The second is coming up at Bommanahalli forest nursery. For the other three units, we are approaching the lake and horticulture departments. To begin with, 50,000 seedlings/saplings of native tree species will be

available in these nurseries," the DCF told BM. Botanists and experts BM spoke to said although it is a welcome step, the BBMP must rope in researchers from city-based institutes to train students in various silviculture practices.

"Some of the native tree species have low germination rate and are slow growing; so seed treatment before germination is a good idea. These are mostly the species with a hard seed coat. In such cases, seed treatment can be done under standard silviculture practices, which will help in increasing germination percentage. Silviculture practice also includes application of growth regulators to increase the growth rate. While it is a step in the right direction, the BBMP must involve research institutes in such projects. The government is spending crores of rupees on forest education and expertise; What is available locally, should be utilised," said C Nagarajaiah, professor and ex-head of the department of forestry and environmental science at the University of Agricultural Sciences (GKVK), Bengaluru.

Seedlings of nearly 50 native tree species will be grown in the nurseries. Some of the species include Neem, Magnolia, Alstonia scholaris, Silver oak, Avocado, Cordia sebestena, Simarouba glauca, Cassia fistula, Mimosa elengi and Tabebuia rosea.

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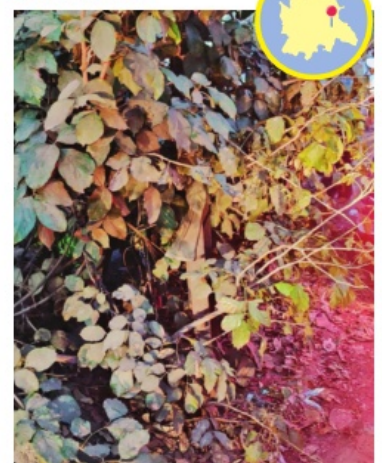
Indiranagar



A dangerously protruding door of an electric box awaits victims near the Jockey showroom on CMH Road in Indiranagar. This can hurt anybody crossing by.

Remove it

SBM Circle



The footpath at SBM Circle has been blocked by a semi-cut tree. Citizens demand an urgent removal to ensure pedestrian safety.

Reckless dump

DJ Halli



There's a garbage menace at Roshan Nagar, DJ Halli. People have been dumping carelessly. The authorities concerned should do something.



NOTICE

Locker hired by (PSB) S Sunanda R and Vinutha Raj having address at No. 115 Sriniketh Apartments, MSR Nagar, Mathikere, Bengaluru - 560058, with the Vijayanagar Branch of Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd., situated at No. 65/14th Main Road, Opp. Bharatiya Sankruthi Vidyapeetha School, Vijayanagar, Bengaluru - 560040, has remained unoperational for the past 4 years.

All the 3 letters sent to (PSB) S Sunanda R and Vinutha Raj calling upon them to operate the locker, have returned unserved and they are not contactable. It is hereby informed that despite this notice, if the said locker is not operated by (PSB) S Sunanda R and Vinutha Raj within 3 months from the date of this notice, break open of the said locker will be done on 4th April, 2024.

High time to crack down

Opium seizures go up by almost six times; ganja most commonly seized

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The Bengaluru police left no stone unturned to nab drug peddlers and consumers in the city in 2023. According to police data, they seized drugs worth Rs 103 crore in 2023, a significant increase from 2022 and 2021 when the police seized drugs worth Rs 92 crore and Rs 60 crore, respectively.

The data also reveals a concerning figure for the city, with a six-fold increase in cases of seized opium. The opium seizures went from 10 kg in 2022 to 63 kg in 2023. Similarly, the total quantity of drugs seized increased from 3,705 kg in 2021 to 5,387 kg in 2023.

Ganja was the most commonly seized drug, accounting for over 50 percent of the total quantity seized in 2023. The police confiscated 5,252 kg of ganja valued at Rs 29 crore, the highest amount in the last three years. Additionally, the amount of MDMA seized by the police increased from 43 kg in 2022 to 55 kg in 2023.

The presence of MDMA in the city is seeing a recent rise since 2021 when the police seized only 19 kg.

Other drugs like heroin, cocaine, and LSD paper were also seized in large amounts. The police even confiscated 3,777 Yaba tablets and 870 LSD strips.

Arrests dipped

However, the number of people arrested for drugs decreased last year. In 2023, the police arrested 4,399 people, while in 2022, there were more than 5,000 arrests,



In this file photo, a police official arranges drugs seized in the city

65 people involved in these cases got life imprisonment or more than 14 years in jail. Twenty-one people received sentences of 10 to 14 years

—Police official

with 5,215 people being arrested. Even the number of cases reported by the police dropped in 2023. In 2022, the police recorded 4,027 cases, whereas in 2023, there were 3,443 cases. Even for the arrests of foreigners, there is a 46 percent

decrease as compared to 2021. In 2021, the police arrested 186 foreigners for drugs and 122 people in 2022, which dropped to 99 arrests in 2023.

Most of the arrests were made for ganja, where 4,059 people were arrested. Police arrested 12 persons with hashish oil, eight with heroin, 13 with opium, 20 possessing cocaine, and 240 with MDMA.

According to the police, 65 people involved in these cases were convicted for life imprisonment or more than 14 years in jail. Twenty-one people received sentences of 10 to 14 years, 19 accused were given 7 to 10 years, and 30 were sentenced to 3 to 7 years in jail. More than 16,800 people had to pay fines of more than Rs 16,000, while 15,000 people paid fines of Rs 15,000.

Superheroes in traffic cop uniforms

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Two traffic cops emerged as everyday heroes, coming to the rescue of people in need.

Traffic cop Narayanappa, who was posted at Kadubeesanahalli, helped a man who had forgotten his phone in an auto, retrieve it within an hour, on Wednesday.

The cop told BM that he was doing his daily duty from 9 am at a bus stand, where he noticed a distressed man.

"The IT company employee was travelling in an auto and when he got down, he noticed that his phone was missing. He was asking other people on the bus stand for their phone to call. When I noticed him, I went and asked him about the matter," said the cop.

The traffic cop then gave the man his phone and they tried calling on the man's phone but nobody picked up.

The man fortunately remembered the number of the auto and told the policeman.

"I have a friend at the auto office. I contacted him and told him about the incident and from there we got the auto



Narayanappa helps auto passenger retrieve lost phone within an hour

driver's phone number. After getting the phone number, I called him. The auto driver picked up and I asked him to come to the stand," the cop added.

The auto driver then returned the phone to the techie within 45 minutes of the man leaving his phone in the auto.

The effort by the cop was appreciated by DCP traffic east who also posted about it on his X handle.

Meanwhile, in another incident, a traffic police official stationed at Magadi Road apprehended a chain snatcher attempting to flee in an auto rickshaw on Tuesday.

The entire incident was captured on a police body camera, revealing Assistant Sub-Inspector Ramachandra and Woman Police Constable Sandhya successfully intercepting and delivering the culprit to Magadi Road Police.

The video showed that the policeman was pursuing the auto rickshaw based on a bystander's tip-off.

Joint Commissioner of Police (Traffic) MN Anucheth commended the quick and efficient actions of the traffic police personnel involved in the arrest.

The Magadi Road Police subsequently detained two individuals, Senthil and Vijay, in connection with the chain-snatching incident. Anucheth told reporters that a woman had reported the incident to the traffic police deployed at the spot.

ASI Ramachandra's pursuit led to the chain snatcher being nabbed. He was found in possession of a gold chain and cash.

'Shame on humanity': HC on manual scavenging

The High Court on Wednesday took cognizance of a newspaper report on prevalence of manual scavenging in the state and termed it as a "shame on humanity". A division bench of Chief Justice Prasanna B Varale and Justice Krishna S Dixit appointed advocate Sridhar Prabhu as amicus curiae and directed him to file a public interest litigation (PIL) with the Registry, which will place it before the bench for hearing on January 8.

The court remarked that the incidents mentioned in the report shook its conscience. "After more than 60 years still somebody who is our brother in society merely due to his misfortune, he took birth in a particular community, carrying the stamp of one caste is required to do these things. Is it not a shame on humanity? Is this what we

all are here for?" it asked.

Though the country is proud of its technical advancements, the bench said there is no change in the mindset of people.

"Why are we making our brothers do these things when there are technical advancements to clean the pits but there is no change in the mindset?" Machines could be employed for manual scavenging which cost only Rs 2,000 per hour, the bench pointed out.

Referring to ISRO's Chandrayaan-3 mission, the bench said, "You just can't be concentrating or anything when these things are still happening in society when on one hand, for rightful reasons, we say we reached the moon just two months back. We are proud of it. Same time, we are not treating our brothers as human beings." —PTI

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One down, but yet another Illegal layout is creeping up

Whitefield residents say something's brewing at plot next to where BBMP had begun drive to remove encroachments

Bangalore Mirror Bureau
mybangaloremirror
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

A group of residents in Whitefield have raised the issue of another illegal layout coming up in the area where demolition enforcement action of a previous illegal layout is in progress. In a written complaint, locals have contacted the Revenue Minister, demanding action against the violators.

Interestingly, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) recently launched enforcement action against 72 unauthorised buildings in the White Rose layout in the Whitefield area, issuing demolition notices. This was after locals complained about multiple violations in the layout – from lack of basic amenities and unhealthy living conditions to civic breakdown and from sewage issues, illegal borewells to fire safety violations and law and order problems.

However, residents say that while the illegal building demolition enforcement action by



File photo of an encroachment drive at Marathahalli; usually BBMP presses on with its drives only after the buildings are set up illegally, which makes removal of encroachments a tedious affair

BBMP at White Rose Layout is in progress, some developers have launched another illegal layout on an adjacent property, with access through White Rose Layout itself.

"Earthwork and felling of trees, with the intention of layout formation has begun and has been going on for the last few months. There are allegations that an illegal layout without BDA approval is being formed and individual sites in this proposed layout are being marketed by its developer. Further, an attempt was made to create an alternate illegal road in the buffer zone of Pattandur Agrahara Lake to connect to this land," noted the letter written to the Minister.

Residents say that while the issue was brought to the attention of the Whitefield ward committee and Mahadevapura zonal officials

“Earthwork and felling of trees, with the intention of layout formation have been going on for the last few months... without BDA approval

— Letter to Revenue Minister

multiple times, no action has been taken.

"We also informed the tahsildar of Bengaluru East, who immediately dispatched a revenue Inspector to investigate the matter. However, we are yet to receive information from the tahsildar's office on the results of the investigation, and the action taken by them," said a resident.

Residents allege that UGD pipes

have been laid with no termination points and BWSSB officials are unaware of this connection. They also claim the developer is marketing sites in this layout and maps have been distributed to

"We strongly suspect the UGD pipes will discharge sewage into the open, or into a stormwater drain that leads into the Pattandur Agrahara Lake, polluting the water body. Moreover, prospective buyers visit the land every day to inspect the sites and negotiate with the developer. Every residential area in Bengaluru is crumbling under congestion, over-stressed amenities, and pollution. And all this seems to be happening with impunity. There seems to be no effort by the administration to enforce laws and rules," said Sandeep Anirudhan of Namma Whitefield.

15th edition of Bangalore International Film Festival from Feb 29

The meeting of the organising committee chaired by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah for the 15th Bangalore International Film Festival was held on Wednesday.

The meeting chaired by Siddaramaiah was attended by all members of the committee and they gave their suggestions for the film festival. The Bangalore International Film Festival has achieved international acclaim. The International Federation of Film Producers Associations of Belgium (FIAPF) has accredited it.

Every year, a film festival is held in February and March, and the proposed dates for the 15th Bangalore International Film Festival in February and March are as follows. Inauguration Ceremony (by the Hon'ble Chief Minister) on Thursday evening, February 29. Film festival screenings will be held from March 1 to 7. The closing Ceremony including Awards Distribution by Honourable Governor will be held on March 7. The inauguration ceremony will be organized in front of Vidhana Soudha. The closing ceremony

Closing Ceremony including Awards Distribution by Governor on March 7

emony will be organized in the Banquet Hall of Vidhana Soudha. The film festival has a budget of Rs 1.61 crore. It was determined to provide the requisite supplementary grant. As a homage, films by Lilavati, Bhagavan, C.V. Shivashankar, and other Kannada cinema stalwarts will be presented throughout the festival. It was decided to emphasize images of ideas, and inclusiveness, to convey a message of humanity in the Film Festival. In this regard, the Government has issued an order to form a Film Festival Organizing Committee under the Chairmanship of the Hon'ble Chief Minister and a Core Committee under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Information and Public Relations Department on 30.12.2023 for organizing the 15th Bangalore International Film Festival. — ANI



Consumer Connect Initiative

Work or pleasure? Both, says changing landscape of urban spaces

The millennial generation, those born between 1981 and 1996, is significantly shaping the contours of urban development. As the first generation to come of age in the new millennium, they possess distinct values, driven by technological immersion, global connectivity, and a pronounced emphasis on experiences over possessions. For millennials, the concept of 'home' transcends traditional boundaries. It represents a curated space that aligns with their multifaceted lifestyles—where work seamlessly blends with leisure and individual aspirations converge with collective well-being.

Reimagining urban spaces, the architectural blueprints of yesteryears are undergoing a metamorphosis, influenced by the evolving preferences of millennials. The proliferation of co-living spaces, communal work hubs,

and mixed-use developments exemplifies this shift.

These spaces are not mere structures; they are experiential ecosystems. They integrate cutting-edge design principles with community-centric amenities, fostering environments that nurture creativity, collaboration, and cultural exchange. The challenge for modern-day developers lies in crafting spaces that are both economically viable and resonate with the evolving ethos of urban millennials.

The role of technology in the digital age, technology serves as the linchpin that binds urban spaces. Millennials, accustomed to the convenience of smartphones, AI-driven applications, and IoT devices, expect their living spaces to be technologically adept. Smart homes equipped with voice-activated assistants, inte-



grated energy management systems, and advanced security protocols are becoming the norm. Furthermore, urban mobility solutions, ranging from ride-sharing platforms to electric vehicle infrastructure, are integral components of millennial-friendly urban spaces. Technology, therefore, is not merely an add-on but an intrinsic element that enhances the quality of urban living.

Community and connectivity contrary to popular misconceptions, millennials harbour a deep-seated desire for genuine human connections.

The proliferation of community-centric initiatives, such as coworking events, cultural festivals, and collaborative projects, underscores this yearning for meaningful interactions. Urban spaces that prioritise communal areas—be they verdant parks, shared kitchens, or collaborative work zones—foster a sense of belonging. They transcend the transactional nature of modern living, cultivating environments where relationships are nurtured, ideas are exchanged, and collective memories are forged.

Sustainability as a cornerstone the spectre of climate change and environmental degradation looms large, influencing the values and choices of the millennial generation. There is an inherent recognition of the finite nature of our planet and a corresponding emphasis on sustainable living. Urban spaces that integrate

eco-friendly materials, harness renewable energy sources, and prioritise green spaces resonate deeply with this eco-conscious demographic. Beyond mere aesthetics, sustainability becomes a cornerstone—a testament to responsible stewardship and a commitment to future generations.

The urban landscapes of the 21st century are emblematic of a broader societal evolution, shaped by the aspirations, values, and choices of the millennial generation. As we navigate this intricate tapestry of change, collaboration emerges as a guiding principle. It beckons policymakers, urban planners, developers, and communities to converge, envisioning cities that are not mere conglomerations of structures but vibrant ecosystems of innovation, inclusivity, and sustainability.

— Sanjeev Srivastava, Assotech Group, IANS



Bad BAE

Toxic relationship signs that we can do without

In the ever-tumultuous landscape of modern dating, finding a genuine connection and falling in love has become even more difficult. Especially with horrible relationship trends being on a constant rise! We're serious! This year witnessed some of the worst dating trends that we hope we never have to deal with in the coming year.

Prowling

The dating trend describes how some romantic interests float in and out of your life at will just because they feel like it. One day they're taking you out on expensive dates and talking about backpacking western Europe with you but the next day, they don't reply to your texts. And just when you've convinced yourself they're not the one for you and moved on, they reappear by sliding into your DMs with a casual text without offering any explanation about why they disappeared in the first place! Their behaviour is frustratingly hot and cold towards you and it's not that you don't like you, it's just that they don't see themselves settling down with you. So while they wait for their next serious partner to come along, they occupy their time with someone whose company they mildly enjoy. You!

Backburner

A backburner is a person who is not committed to you but maintains a certain degree of contact with you, leaving the door open for a possible romantic relationship in the future. Case in point? That ex who crops out of the dead every few months taking an interest in your life even though it's evident from his 'gram that he has a steady girlfriend! Or that guy you connected with on an online dating app who sends you a text every once in a while enquiring about your life. Simply put, backburner relationships are like having a safety net, and not putting all your eggs in one basket. It's the same as having a plan B in case your plan A doesn't work out. A person keeping you on a backburner might flirt with you, and indicate the possibility of a relationship but won't commit to anything. Instead, they'll maintain contact, in an attempt to keep you around long-term, just in case they decide want to date you one day.

Zombeing

Zombeing is when someone who has ghosted, that is, disappeared from your life or stopped talking to you without any kind of reason or explanation, starts communicating with you again, also, without any

kind of explanation or apology. They often drop a text message out of the blue, after a while since they last spoke to you, about something casual like a 'Hey, how's it going?'.

Stonewalling

You know that situation when you're having a heated discussion with your partner and suddenly they disconnect? Maybe they physically walk away, get cold, and agree to whatever you say or simply stop answering and put some distance between the two of you? Yeah, in modern dating terms, that is called stonewalling! It's a situation where an invisible wall goes up, your partner emotionally switches off and you're left wondering how to play it. Whether it's mid-argument or out of the blue (because something is bothering them and they'd rather get cold instead of talking it out!), there's simply no way of getting through to them.

Slow-fading

Slow fading means when you're in a situationship with someone and they don't seem to be as interested

as they once were. The texts come in fewer and farther between, they've stopped making plans, and their responses are as dry as that stale bread sitting on your kitchen counter for a week. It's a pattern of mixed communication that can lead to a lot of second-guessing and honestly, it's exhausting being on the receiving end of the trend. It's quite simple, really. In ghosting, the person rips off the bandaid in one go, there's no second-guessing, no reading between the lines, and the sudden and rather ruthless behaviour ensures both parties are on the same page, whether they like it or not. That's not the same case with slow fading as one person makes it seem like the relationship has run its course and died a natural death when they've been pretty much orchestrating it that way. They gaslight their partner into thinking everything is fine, and then go ahead and slowly take themselves out of the equation, leaving their partner wondering what just happened.

Wokefishing

For the last few among us who still aren't aware of what it means, catfishing means blurring the facts when it comes to age, height, looks, income, etc. It usually happens on dating websites and is more common than you'd think. It turns out, however, that there's a new dating trend on the rise and it might just be more harmful than catfishing! Wokefishing. In this trend, people change or conceal details about their core beliefs and character to seem more progressive than they are, which is far more misleading.

A wokefish might, at first, present themselves as someone who's read Jane Eyre cover to cover at least six times, drinks ethically sourced plant milk, cares about the planet, and shares the same values you do when it comes to relationships and raising a child. But, in reality, they don't seem to care at all.

Love Bombing

Remember Kabir from Kabir Singh and his toxic ways of showing love for his partner? Many might argue that despite the toxicity, he really did love Preeti. We beg to differ, in fact, we think he was a love bomber in all senses. Who is a love bomber, you ask? Love bombing refers to a pattern of intense and overblown interest and attention from one partner in order to manipulate the other. (Yes, picking out Preeti's friends for her or asking her to wear her dupatta in a certain way that he wanted are both signs of love bombing!) It's often hard to spot a love bomber, especially because our culture through films and fairy tales normalises love bombing. Often, it even convinces the public at large that it's romantic love. Also, if you're used to terrible exes (the kind who wouldn't communicate right or value you), a love bomber might feel like a welcome break.

by Ravina M Sachdev, Femina



All you need to know about...

Mindful exercise

Good combo

Want to start 2024 with a new workout routine to feel fitter and happier? A new study suggests combining mindfulness with exercise.

Mood lifter

The study, published in the journal Mental Health and Physical Activity, suggests that life changes which combine both physical activity and mindfulness are most effective at lifting mood and improving health and well-being.

More positive effects

Both physical activity and mindfulness practice have well-established psychological benefits. However, by reviewing existing research studies, this is one of the first to show how the positive effects can be increased when the two are combined, said researchers at the University of Bath in the UK.

Mindfulness can motivate

The findings suggest that mindfulness can help to unlock exercise by helping to motivate people to start in the first place, while overcoming minor pain, discomfort or feelings of failure when exercising gets hard.

Starting trouble

"Starting 2024 with a resolution to exercise more can have really positive physical and mental health benefits. But we know that starting out can be tough and that it can also be hard to stick with it," said Masha Remskar of the University's Department of Health.

Train up

Mindfulness is an approach that can help us 'train up' the psychological strengths we need to exercise and be more in tune with our bodies, as well as make exercising more interesting and help us recognise its benefits. Remskar explained that "becoming more mindful prompts us to think differently about our lifestyle".

-IANS

This year witnessed some of the worst dating trends that we never have to deal with. These are 7 of the most noxious ones in the modern dating scene

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I Mustak Basha S/O, Hussain Basha R/o No 11, 1st Floor, Devaraj Street, Venkateshpuram, Near Mary Mount School, Bangalore, Karnataka - 560045, have changed my name to Mushtak Basha.

I, Syed Mahaboob Pasha Baba Sahib R/o 20, 2nd Crs, Umar Nagar, Govindpur, Bangalore-45 have changed my name to Syed Mahaboob Pasha for all purposes.

I, KHUSHBOO SACHDEV aged about 56 Years, R/at Flat No.302, Asthamangal Regency, 3rd Floor, No.4 and 5, 2nd Main Road, Chakravathi Iyengar Layout, Sripuram Kumarapark West, Seshadripuram, Bangalore- 560020, have changed my name to KHUSHBOO RAJESH SACHDEV vide affidavit dated: 29/12/2023 Before Notary S.I.Balaguru Bangalore.

I, Shruthi Antapnal, resident of No.77, Matru Krupa, 8th Block, Nagarabhavi 2nd Stage, Malagala main road, Bangalore- 560 072 have changed our minor daughter name from PRAMATI M to PRAMATI KULKARNI, vide affidavit dated 03.01.2021 sworn before notary Renuka .C, B.lore.

I, Kuganandan S/o Dhayalu Anandur R/O No 861 Opp Water Tank Mico Layout Hongasandra South Bangalore Karnataka-560065, declare that my father's name has been wrongly mentioned as Dhayalan in my Pan Card, his correct name is Dhayalu Anandur

I, MOHAMMED MUJAHIDULLA R/a #3439/4, New Police Quarters Lane, Tippunagar, Bangarpet-563114, I, have changed my name to, MOHAMED MUJAHIDULLA. Vide affidavit, dated 01/01/2024 Sworn before Notary N Nagappa Bangalore

I Sunil Kumar G S/O, Ganeshram Choudhary R/o No.726, 9th Main Road, Aecs Layout B Block, Singasandra, Bengaluru Karnataka have changed my name to Sunil Kumar Ganeshram Choudhary.

I, Mallappa Shivappa Hanamar S/o Shivappa Hanamar, R/at # 703, Cholachagudda Post, Badami Taluk, Bagalkot Dist- Karnataka 587201, have changed my name to Mallappa Hanamar, for all purposes

I, Safdar Shaista Riyaz Sait W/O Riyaz Sait #28/1 rs palya Blr-33 have changed my name to Shaista Riyaz Sait for all purposes.

I, Madhusudhana.R R/o Kumbharabedi Mulabagilu Taluk Avani Kolar 563127 have changed my name to Madhusudhan R for all purposes

I, Abdul Baseer Furqan R/o No:- 18/6, 6th Cross, Devaraj urs Nagar, Old Guddadahalli, Bangalore 560026 have changed my minor Son name from Mohammed Abdan Amiri to Mohammed Abdan Amere for all purposes

I Sourabh R/O #743 Jyothi, 4th Cross North Block, Near Vidyaniketan Public school, Upkar Layout, Ullal Bangalore North, Vishwaneddam, Bangalore 560091, have changed my name to Sourabh Shrinivas Rao Nadiger.

I, Shaista Riyaz Sait W/O Riyaz Sait # 28/1 R S Palya Blr-33 have changed my name to Shaista Riyaz Sait for all purposes.

I, Ayan S/O Abdul Majid # 51/A 1/F 9th Main Ilyas Ngr Bengaluru-560078 have changed my name to Ayan A for all purposes.

I, Zariya Tariq W/o Harib Ansar R/o 604, Magnifica, SJR Fiesta Homes, Doddanagaman gala, Electronic City phase 2, Bengaluru-560099 have changed my name to Zaria Tariq for all purposes.

I, Arti Praveen Patel W/o, Gaurav Suresh Patel R/o Flat No.703, Panchamukhi Paradise, A Block, Rr Nagar, Bangalore 560098 have changed my name to Arti Gaurav Patel for all purposes.

I, TRUPTI STEPHEN JONES W/o Stephen Jones, residing at 22,3rd Block, 5th Lane, Dasappa Layout, RM Nagar, Doorva ninagar, Bangalore North Bangalore-560016 Karnataka, have changed my name from YEVARIKAR TRUPTI ASHOK RAO to TRUPTI STEPHEN JONES vide affidavit dated 03/01/2024 sworn before notary Venkatesh M.T. Bangalore.

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Office spaces turn costlier

Report highlights 7% annual growth in residential prices in B'luru; Lavelle Road happens to be most preferred choice for setting office

Sridhar.Vivan
@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @sridharvMIRROR

When selecting office space, Lavelle Road emerges as the most preferred choice, demanding the highest rent in the range of Rs 21,000 to Rs 31,519 per square foot. Langford Town, the closest competitor, has rental rates in the range of Rs 15,000 to Rs 23,114. According to the latest report by Knight Frank India, titled 'India Real Estate: Residential and Office (July-December 2023)', Bengaluru recorded an office transaction volume of 12.5 million sq ft in 2023. This marks the highest transaction volume among the leading eight cities in India.

Interestingly, one can see the shift towards northern Bengaluru, which is now emerging as a major hub of office spaces. Hebbal poses a significant challenge to CBD areas, commanding a maximum rent of Rs 14,127 per square foot. Notably, Hebbal experienced a dramatic 12.2% increase in office rentals over the past year. Thanisandra, located behind Manyata Tech Park, witnessed an 11.2% rise in rentals compared to previous years, now commanding the highest rent of Rs 10,381 per square foot. Hennur experienced a 10.6% increase in rentals, with the highest rental now at Rs 10,401 per square foot, while Yelahanka saw a 10.1% rise, commanding the highest rental of Rs 9,014 per square foot. This stands in stark



The surge in prices is attributed to growing demand, fuelled by hybrid work structures

contrast to tech hubs like Whitefield, where the maximum rent is Rs 9,415; Electronic City at Rs 7,372; and Bannerghatta Road at Rs 8,223 per square foot.

The Knight Frank report, released on Wednesday, highlighted a 7% annual growth in residential prices in Bengaluru, reaching a weighted average price of INR 5,900 per sq ft in 2023. The surge in prices is attributed to growing demand, fuelled by hybrid work structures and the return to office. Responding to this demand, residential property supply in the city is rising, as evidenced by record-high launches in 2023. The report anticipates a moderation in price growth in 2024 as supply aligns with demand.

Analysing this, Shantanu Mazumder, Executive Director,

Bengaluru, Knight Frank India, said, "Bengaluru observed a continuing momentum, showcasing progression in sales despite the headwinds arising from elevated interest rates. This indicates a continuation in buyer appetite for homeownership in Bengaluru and ensures optimistic sentiment for 2024 for real estate in Bengaluru."

The northern region of Bengaluru witnessed the highest residential price appreciation of 12.2%. The central region remains the most expensive micro-market, with residential prices ranging between INR 21,000 and 31,519 per sq ft.

In the office space sector, flex tenants and GCCs (Global Capability Centres) emerged as the leading occupants in Bengaluru in 2023. Flex occupiers contrib-

uted to 30.3% of the overall transaction volume, showing a substantial 23% increase compared to 2022. However, the momentum in flex space leasing tapered in H2 2023, signalling a resurgence in occupier inclination towards long-term leases. GCCs accounted for 30% of office space leasing volume in Bengaluru, compared to 25% in 2022.

Mazumder added, "The constituency of the occupier landscape has transformed in the city. The moderate leasing activity by third-party IT was positively cushioned by the market share consolidation by GCC, Flex, and India-facing businesses. Bengaluru is an attractive market for GCC occupiers as the city is already an established global hub, has a diverse talent pool."

Forest dept demolishes shed in Turahalli zone

After being directed by Karnataka Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre to clear encroachments of forest land at the earliest, officials from the Karnataka Forest Department (KFD) demolished a shed on Wednesday that was illegally constructed in the buffer zone of Turahalli Reserve forest near Kengeri.

KFD cleared 6.5 acres of forest of illegal encroachment and has taken over the land.

This was after the minister conducted a closed-door meeting with the officials from KFD on Tuesday.

"The encroachment of forest lands around Bengaluru should be cleared first. Increasing encroachments of forest land is



KFD cleared 6.5 acres of forest of illegal encroachment

one of the reasons behind higher human-wildlife conflict cases. While the forest department has cleared nearly 2,000 acres of encroachment over the past three months, more needs to be done," said Khandre during his meeting with KFD officials on Tuesday.

KFD officials were also asked to prepare a division-wise, circle-wise, and district-wise list of encroachments and decide the next course of action. On Wednesday, following the meeting, a team of more than 20 forest personnel demolished an illegally constructed shed in the buffer area of Turahalli Reserve and recaptured the land by planting saplings of various tree species.

"Madhusudhanananda Swamy had encroached upon about 6.5 acres of forest land in the forest area and had applied for sanction, which was rejected by the forest department, citing that the land cannot be allotted to anyone as it is forest land. In August 2017, the ACF ordered the removal of encroachments as the encroachers did not have any revenue document, sale deed, sanction letter, or cultivation slip in respect of the forest land. An appeal was filed in the CCF court challenging the order," said a release from the Forest, Ecology and Environment Department of Karnataka.

-BMB

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Women's National T20 Cricket Tournament for Blind from Jan 8

The Cricket Association for the Blind in India (CABI) and the Karnataka Cricket Association for the Blind (KCAB) announced on Wednesday that the Women's National T20 Cricket Tournament for the Blind 2024 will kick off on January 8 in Hubli-Dharwad.

A total of 16 teams, divided into four groups, will engage in spirited competition for the ultimate showdown scheduled for January 12. The league stage kicks off on January 8. The grand inauguration ceremony of the tournament will be held on January 7, 2024, at Indira Glasshouse in Hubli. The distinguished guests from corporate houses and political parties are expected to grace the inaugural ceremony.

The league stage will end on January 10, and the four teams qualifying for the semi-finals will battle it out for the top spot on January 11. The final showdown will take place on January 12 at the Karnataka Gymkhana Cricket



File photo of Indian Women's Blind Cricket team celebrating in Mumbai

Ground. The finals of this year's women's nationals will be celebrated along with National Youth Day, also known as Vivekananda Jayanti.

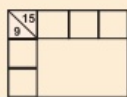
Addressing the media Uday Kumar Y Bagunavar, Founder Member, Cricket Association for the Blind in India (CABI) and Trustee, Samarthanam Trust for the Disabled,

said, "We are happy to host the 4th edition of the women's national at Hubli-Dharwad. The last 3 editions have helped CABI form the Indian women's cricket team for the blind, and this edition will help us identify the new players who would potentially play for India in the coming years."

-IANS

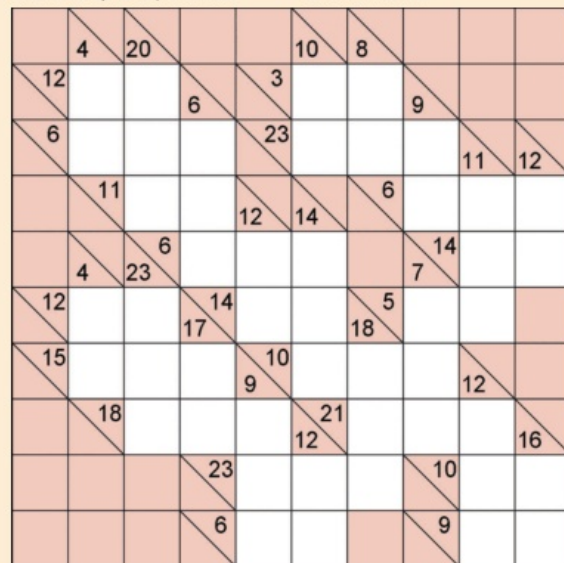
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

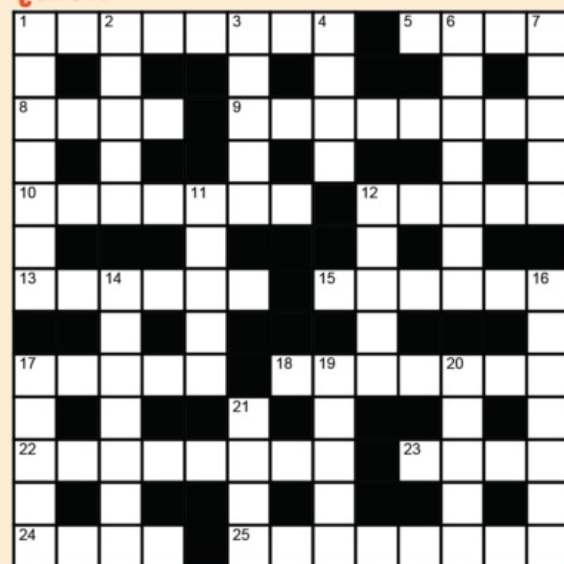


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

- 1 Vindictive (8)
- 5 Online journal (4)
- 8 In ___ hands : at the mercy of the Almighty? (4)
- 9 Conclusion of story (8)
- 10 Palpebras - "seedily" anagram (7)
- 12 Conscience, regret or reservation (5)
- 13 Annually (6)
- 15 Says or pronounces (6)
- 17 Telephone conversations (5)
- 18 White of egg (7)
- 22 Study of wine (8)
- 23 Wolf's tooth (4)
- 24 Very happy (4)
- 25 Never meeting or intersecting (8)

DOWN

- 1 Faintly or imprecisely (7)
- 2 Gentle poke (5)
- 3 Evil spirit (5)
- 4 Den (4)
- 6 Suitcases, etc used in travelling (7)
- 7 Glitter (5)
- 11 Lazes (5)
- 12 Delhi's ___ Minar (5)
- 14 American city (7)
- 16 Dakar is its capital (7)
- 17 Holiday spot in Karnataka (5)
- 19 Stratum (5)
- 20 Type of acacia (5)
- 21 A successful action (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: I EQUALS S
RTFRKLI NALRB FNIIRII DNKR
PZLZ LVZB WSPDRBL.



Linemaro

I like you more than bacon



Mindchow

Debt is born when you want to spend money before you have earned it



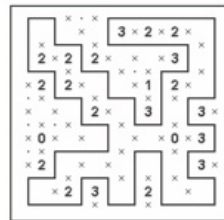
Joke of the day

Last night I dreamt I was the author of Lord of the Rings. I was Tolkien in my sleep

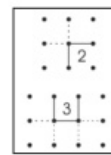
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)

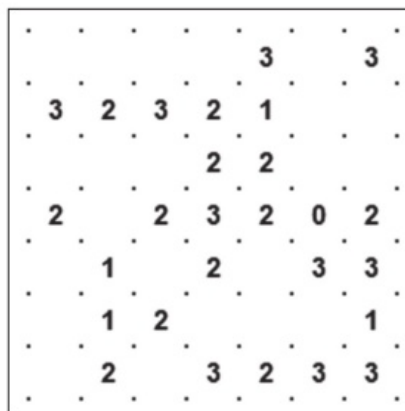


(Fig B)
Not Allowed

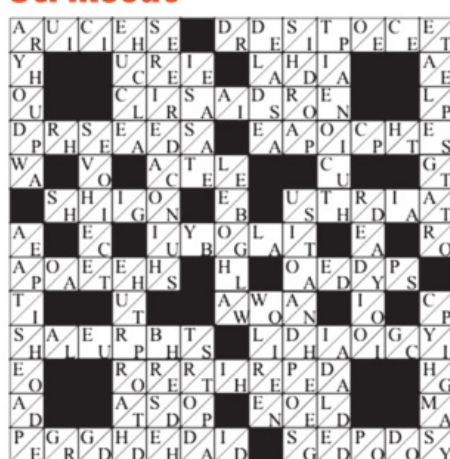
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) - Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



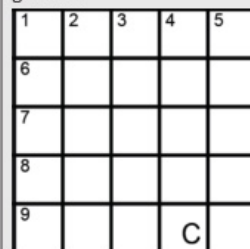
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

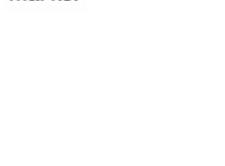
- 1 Mr Sic; 6 Eliot;
- 7 Pions; 8 A ruse;
- 9 Car PH

DOWN

- 1 Spout; 2 A crop;
- 3 Err is; 4 Cilia;
- 5 NHS me

Mensapuzzle

What numbers should replace the question marks?

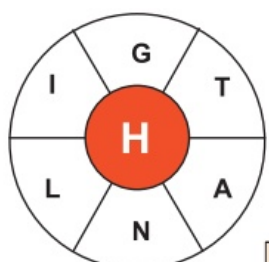


83 64 45 ??
96 65 34 ??

Bull's eye

How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

12 Average; 14 Good; 16 Outstanding



SudokuChallenge



To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.



Easy

2 3 6 8 = 9

Medium

2 2 5 6 = 19

Hard

2 5 6 2 = 2

Hocusfocus



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Hand is moved. 2. Hat is larger. 3. Window is not as wide. 4. Name tag is higher. 5. Plate is moved. 6. Tie is different.

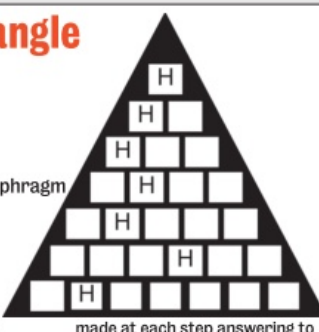
Riddler

Starting with E, add a letter and shuffle to make a new word each time until you reach SHOVEL.

Alpha triangle

- 1 8th letter
- 2 Greeting
- 3 With it
- 4 French fry
- 5 Bird sound
- 6 Coded message
- 7 Relating to the diaphragm

Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be



made at each step answering to the clue given.

COMICS

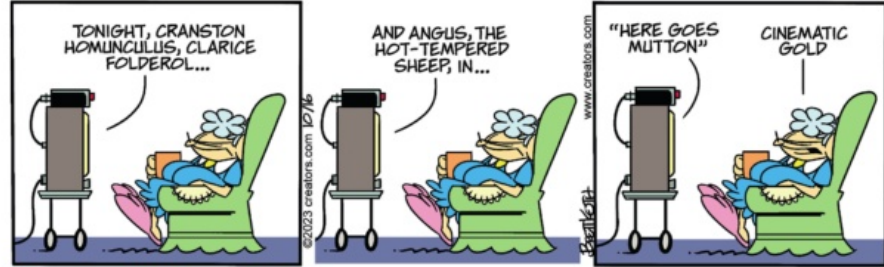
Redeye by Mel Casson



Bizarrotrip



Diamond Lil



Hart of the city



Crankshaft



Mutts



WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 - Apr 20

Today you may have detachment from the responsibilities you have given. You also spend more on purchasing worthless stuff, which may increase negativity in the house or office. You are advised to keep an eye on your opponents and rivals; otherwise, you may be a victim of a conspiracy. It is advised to read documents carefully before submitting your signature.



Leo Jul 24 - Aug 23

Today, you may feel dull; you may be a victim of hidden fear, which may make you scared. You are not in a situation to trust anyone. It is advised to do meditation and chant some prayers, which may help you come out of this hypothetical situation. With the help of the elder's blessings around late evening, you may come out of this messy situation.



Sagittarius Nov 23 - Dec 22

Today, you may expect some short business trips. You may also expect to get some rewards for your success in your domain. Your respect for those around you may increase. You may hear some good news from your siblings. Job seekers who are seeking management jobs may find success. Singles are likely to get engaged.



Taurus Apr 21 - May 20

Today, you are blessed by elders. Your patience becomes very good, and your focus on your work may be very good. Parents' health has now improved. You are likely to spend your time with elders. You may also meet some influential people who may help you on a professional front. You may also enjoy your romantic moments, which may increase harmony in domestic life.



Virgo Aug 24 - Sep 23

Today, a positive moon may make you happy. You can use your patience at every stage. Your performance may be good on the job, and you may get some incentives in terms of rewards. Health-related issues among family members will be resolved now. Job seekers are likely to find a suitable job in their domain. Love birds may enjoy their dating.



Capricorn Dec 23 - Jan 20

Today is a good day. You are blessed by Jupiter, and your wisdom may help you come out of difficult situations. You may also help needy people; you may also give your opinion to your family or friends, which may increase your prestige among them. You may have some differences of opinion with your spouse, which may affect your domestic life.



Gemini May 21 - Jun 21

Today, you may be spiritual, and you may help needy people around you. You also plan to donate some amount to a charity or religious place. Your good karma may help you achieve success in your difficult projects. You may feel that some divine power around you may help you in unpredictable situations. You may be attracted to the occult. Students are likely to enjoy studying in depth.



Libra Sep 24 - Oct 22

Today, you may have mixed situations around you. It is advised to not expect more from anyone around you; it may make you disappointed. Today you may have self-exploration and self-analysis, which may allow you to filter yourself. After the filtration process, you may feel confident and be able to prepare to accept challenges.



Aquarius Jan 21 - Feb 19

Today, you may be a victim of mood swings. You may feel dull; your health is not okay. It affects your day-to-day routine. You are advised to avoid rash driving and adventure tours. Today, you may also spend on worthless things, which may affect your financial health.



Cancer Jun 22 - July 23

Today, you may be happy. You may spread happiness around you; you may feel harmony in domestic life; and you may enjoy some romantic moments with your spouse. Your family may assist you in making important professional decisions. You may expect some new ventures or partnerships in the business or work.



Scorpio Oct 23 - Nov 22

Today, you may plan for a change in place; it is advised to postpone the decision related to migration. It is also advised to avoid investing in business. By late evening, the situation may be under control. With the help of good advice from one of the elders, you may control the messy situation.

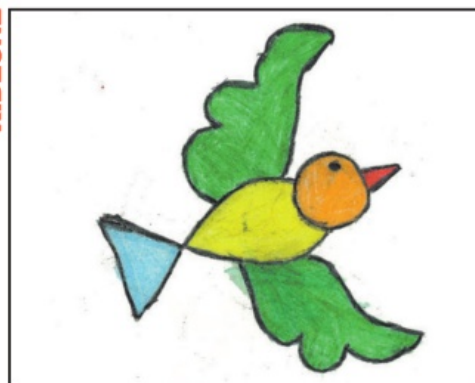


Pisces Feb 20 - Mar 20

Today's blessings from elders may make you happy, and your investments may give you profits. Losses are now converted into profits. Your savings may boost your bank balance. You may plan to invest in your kid's future as well. You may also enjoy some delicious food at home.



KIDZONE



Isiri S Hatwar, 11 Years, MMV School

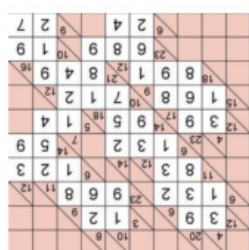


Michelle Jubilant Clement, 6 Years, Sacred Heart Nursery School

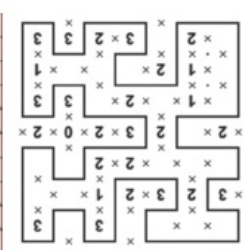
Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;

Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

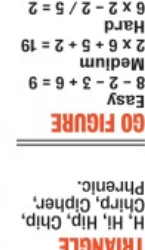
SOLUTIONS



KAKURO



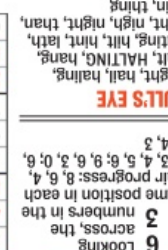
LOOP



ALPHA



SUDOKU



MENSA PUZZLE



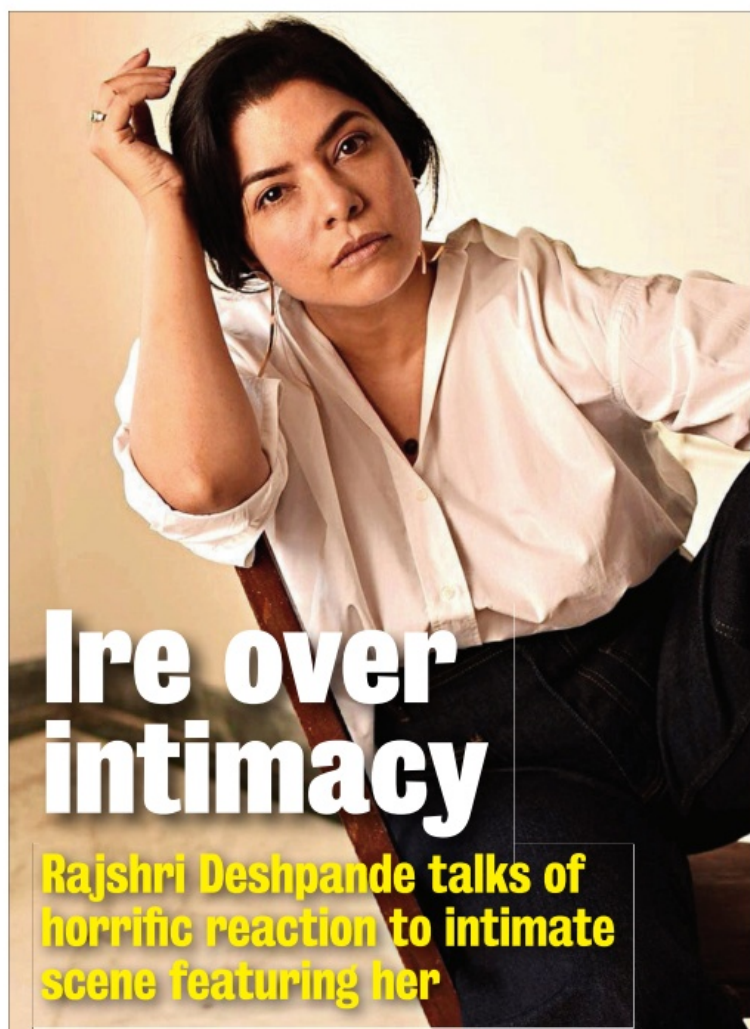
QUICK



STRIKE OUT



SOLVE IN 1M



Ire over intimacy

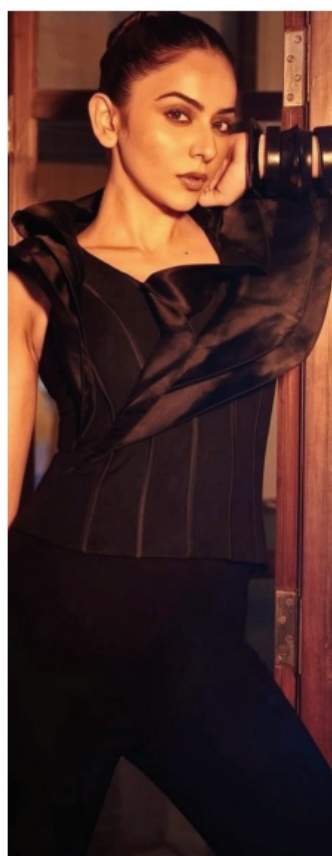
Rajshri Deshpande talks of horrific reaction to intimate scene featuring her

Rajshri Deshpande, renowned for her role as Subhadra in the crime drama 'Sacred Games', shared her experiences of being unfairly labeled as an adult film actor following an intimate scene with Nawazuddin Siddiqui. Despite the scene involving not just her but also Nawazuddin, director Anurag Kashyap, editor, and DOP, Rajshri found herself facing unwarranted scrutiny.

In a recent interview with Zoom, Rajshri disclosed how the intimate scene from the series not only went viral but was also morphed and misused, leading to a barrage of social media posts targeting her. Expressing her frustration, she highlighted the lack of questions directed at Nawazuddin, Anurag Kashyap, and the editing team. It was

only the actress who was questioned why she did the scene. Despite being an integral part of shows like 'Fame Game' and 'Trial By Fire,' Rajshri said her identity is now predominantly associated with 'Sacred Games.' She underscored the need for a constructive discussion on the issue, emphasizing that certain aspects of the industry need to evolve.

Addressing the uncomfortable reality of being unfairly tagged, Rajshri acknowledged the need for change. In an earlier interview with The Indian Express, she expressed her comfort during the filming of intimate scenes, highlighting Nawazuddin's professionalism in ensuring her ease. She added what they showed on the camera was consensual love, but unfortunately, society doesn't talk about such topics. **-ETimes**



Begin the year with workout

Actress Rakul Preet Singh, who was on New Year vacation with her boyfriend and filmmaker Jacky Bhagnani, is back in town, and kicked off her 'first' workout of the year 2024.

Rakul Preet and Jacky went to a picturesque foreign land for their holidays, and celebrated the 39th birthday of the latter.

Taking to Instagram Stories, the 'Yaariyan' actress shared a smiling selfie, wearing a pastel blue tank top, and her hair tied in a ponytail.

She captioned it: "Finally first workout of the year after all the food debauchery."

The 'De De Pyaar De' actress has been treating fans with her photographs from the holidays, wherein she can be seen enjoying the beach side.

The actress gave major fashion and holiday goals with her scintillating beach outfits. **-IANS**



Mermaid vibes

Sobhita Dhulipala's look in white-and-gold saree will make you fall in love with her



Watch this story come alive on your device by scanning this QR code



Inspired by granny



Script writer Jadeshaa K Hampi is excited about the positive response from Challenging Star Darshan for his contribution to the success of the movie Kaatera.

Darshan had recently appreciated Jadeshaa for the script and also acknowledged the importance of the script in the success of Kaatera.

Jadeshaa has also directed three Kannada movies Rajahamsa, Gentleman, and Guru Shishyaru. "My great-grandmother used to tell us about local stories that took place during her childhood in north Karnataka. One of the incidents narrated by her is the main plot of the movie," said Jadeshaa.

Jadeshaa developed passion for movies during his college days. "I hail from a small village. I had to move to Hospet to pursue higher studies. There I would watch two to three movies per week. It was then that I developed passion towards movies," says Jadeshaa. He said his first film Rajahamsa was funded by his friends. He is currently working on a script for a film that will star Duniya Vijay, he said.

Important part



Raghavendra Rajkumar, who played a key role in Rangasamudra, said that he is waiting to watch the film that is scheduled to be released on January 12. Initially, there was no plan to cast him in this movie that went on floors five years ago.

"My brother Puneeth was supposed to play the Deputy Commissioner but his untimely death made me join the cast. The director made some changes to the script to accommodate me. I appreciate director Rajkumar Aski and producer Hoysala Konanur for their commitment," said Raghavendra Rajkumar.

The trailer of the movie was launched recently.

"On October 25, Puneeth Rajkumar gave his nod to act in this movie. Puneeth sir told us that he would attend the shoot on November 5 but he passed away on October 29. Finally, Raghavendra Rajkumar came to our rescue by agreeing to play the key role in this movie," said Rajkumar Aski.

John Travolta shares festive pictures with kids Ella and Ben

The 'Pulp Fiction' star John Travolta spent quality time with his kids for the holidays. The actor recently shared a video montage on Instagram with his two children, Ella Bleu and Benjamin.

The clip was set to Travolta's recording of 'Come Rain or Come Shine', and began with his daughter spinning around in a dimly lit room with a Christmas tree and decorations

visible in the background, reports People magazine.

"Happy New Year!! Thank you for always being there for us! Love John Ella and Ben," he captioned the upload. Elsewhere in the video, Ella posed with her dad and her little brother.

In the snapshot with Ben, they both smiled as they held their arms up in front of a Christmas tree. A final photo showed the youngest sitting on

his father's lap, cuddled up as they rode on an aeroplane.

As per People, Travolta and his late wife, actress Kelly Preston, shared three children together. The couple's oldest son, Jett, was born in April 1992. In January 2009, he died at the age of 16 after a fall at his family's home in the Bahamas resulted in a seizure. Preston died in 2020 after being diagnosed with breast cancer. She was 57. **-IANS**

